

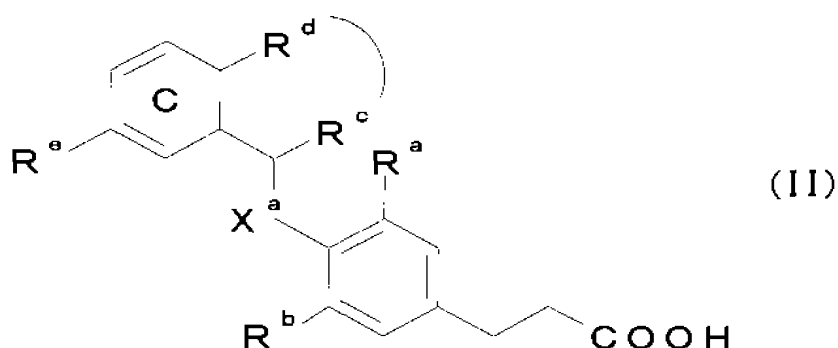
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-5. Canceled

6. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the formula:



wherein R^a is ~~a hydrogen atom~~, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy group optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s);

R^b is a hydrogen atom, or a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy group optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s);

with the proviso that when one of R^a and R^b is a hydrogen atom, then the other should not be a hydrogen atom;

R^c is a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), or a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s);

R^d is a hydrogen atom, ~~a fluorine atom~~, a chlorine atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy group

~~optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s),~~

~~or R^e and R^d are optionally bonded to each other to form a ring optionally having substituent(s);~~

~~R^e is a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a hydrocarbon group optionally having substituent(s), a heterocyclic group optionally having substituent(s), a hydroxy group optionally having substituent(s), a carboxyl group optionally having substituent(s), an acyl group, or an amino group optionally having substituent(s),~~

~~with the proviso that when one of R^d and R^e is a hydrogen atom, then the other should not be a hydrogen atom;~~

~~X^e is an oxygen atom, or a methylene group optionally having substituent(s); and~~

ring C is a benzene ring optionally having, in addition to R^d and R^e, further substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of (i) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, (ii) a hydroxy group, (iii) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, amino, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl-amino, carboxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl, carbamoyl, mono-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbamoyl, di-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbamoyl, tri-C₁₋₆ alkylsilyloxy, and a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom, (iv) a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group, and (v) a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy group; and

(1) when R^d is a hydrogen atom,

then R^e should be (i) a hydroxy group, (ii) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆ alkoxy, carboxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-carbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl, carbamoyl, mono-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbamoyl and di-C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbamoyl, (iii) a C₂₋₆ alkynyloxy group, (iv) a C₃₋₇ cycloalkyloxy group, (v) a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy and C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl, or (vi) a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclyl-oxy group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom;

(2) when R^e is a hydrogen atom,

then R^d should be (i) a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, (ii) a C₆₋₁₄ aryl group, (iii) a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) with a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom, (iv) a C₃₋₇ cycloalkyloxy group, (v) a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom and optionally halogenated C₁₋₆ alkyl, (vi) a C₇₋₁₆ aralkyloxy group, or (vii) a 5- to 7-membered heterocyclic group containing, in addition to carbon atom(s), 1 to 4 heteroatoms of one or two kinds selected from a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom and an oxygen atom, or a salt thereof, ~~except~~

(i) 3,5-difluoro-4-[(2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-yl)oxy]benzenepropanoic acid, (ii) 3-chloro-4-[(2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-yl)oxy]benzenepropanoic acid, (iii) 4-([1,1'-biphenyl]-3-ylmethoxy)-3-chlorobenzenepropanoic acid, (iv) 4-[(4,5-dimethoxy-2-nitrophenyl)methoxy]-3-methoxybenzenepropanoic acid, and (v) 4-[3-hydroxy-1-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)propoxy]-3-methoxybenzenepropanoic acid.

7-9. Canceled

10. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 6, wherein ~~at least one of R^a and R^b is a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, or a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group;~~ R^c is a hydrogen atom; ~~X^a is an oxygen atom;~~ R^d is a hydrogen atom; and R^e is a C₆₋₁₄ aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy and C₁₋₆ alkyl-carbonyl.

11-13. Canceled

14. (Original) 3,5-Difluoro-4-[(3-phenoxyphenyl)methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid, or 3-fluoro-4-[(3-phenoxyphenyl)methoxy]benzenepropanoic acid, or a salt thereof.

15. (Original) 3-(4-{[3-(4-Chlorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}-3,5-difluorophenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3,5-difluoro-4-{[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3,5-difluoro-4-{[3-(4-methylphenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(2-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(3-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(4-chlorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-(3-fluoro-4-{[3-(4-methylphenoxy)benzyl]oxy}phenyl)propanoic acid, 3-{3-methyl-4-[(3-phenoxybenzyl)oxy]phenyl}propanoic acid, or 3-(4-{[3-(4-fluorophenoxy)benzyl]oxy}-3-methylphenyl)propanoic acid, or a salt thereof.

16-17. Canceled

18. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical agent comprising the compound according to claim 6, or a salt thereof, ~~or a prodrug thereof.~~

19-26. Canceled